off in a digitate manner, and are smooth, compressed and furrowed above. Leafets oblong, obovate, sharply serrate, acuminate, smooth on both sides, with scattered bristles on the veins above. The flowers, which are small, grow in a simple umbel on a round, slender peduncle, longer than the petioles. The involucrum consists of a multitude of short subulate leafets, interspersed with the flower-stalks. These stalks or rays are so short as to give the appearance of a head, rather than umbel. In the perfect flowers the calyx has five small acute teeth; the corolla five petals, which are oval, reflexed and deciduous. Stamens five, with oblong anthers. Styles two, reflexed, persistent; germ large, inferior, ovate-heart shaped, compressed. The berries are kidney shaped, retuse at both ends, compressed, of a bright scarlet colour, crowned with the calyx and styles, and containing two semi-circular seeds. In most umbels there are flowers with only one style, in which case the berry has a semi-cordate form, as represented in fig. 3. Sometimes there are three styles and three seeds. The outermost flowers ripen first, and their berries often obtain their full size before the central ones are expanded. The middle flowers are frequently abortive.

There are also barren flowers, on separate plants, which botanists describe as having larger petals, and an entire calyx. I have not met with plants of this description in flower.

The foregoing character leaves little doubt that the American plant is precisely the same with the Asiatic, although Loureiro and some others have disputed their identity. The description of Jartoux, which has been given, as well as his drawing of the plant, agrees in every respect, except that his plant had four branches or leaves, instead of three. This is accounted for by supposing he had chosen a luxuriant specimen.—It is somewhat remarkable that the names of the Chinese, and of the North American Indians, should signify the same thing in their respective languages, viz. a resemblance to the *figure of a man.* This resemblance, however, it must be confessed, even in the branching roots, is rather of a humble kind.

The genus Panax was placed by Linnæus in his class *Polygamia*, and by late writers in *Pentandria, Digynia.* The plants of this family were also referred by Linnæus to his natural order *Hederaceæ*, or somewhat heterogeneous assemblage of vegetables; and by Jussieu to his *Araliæ.* Later botanists have placed them among the *Um-*

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